

Acupuncture, the US Constitution, and the First Amendment

Is the adoption of traditional Chinese and traditional Asian certification standards, as mandated by state law and state regulatory agencies a violation of the US Constitution, the First Amendment, regarding the establishment of a religion?

In the US today, it is impossible to become a traditional acupuncturist without studying Taoist religion and it is impossible in the states that regulate acupuncture to get a license to practice acupuncture without studying and passing a national exam based upon Taoist religion.

IS TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE A RELIGION?

A Brief Overview of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture for Government Officials

Taoism is a recognized world religion with an estimated 20 million followers worldwide. The prophet founder of Taoism was Lao Tzu (604-531). Tao, pronounced Dow, can be roughly translated into English as the "path" or the "way". Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism comprise the three central religions and/or philosophies of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. Source: National Collective Ministry, 2006

The origin of acupuncture is Chinese and it is a teaching of the religion of Taoism. Taoism is the religious/philosophical system evolved by Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu and that advocates a life of complete simplicity and naturalness and of non-interference with the course of natural events in order to attain a happy existence in harmony with the tao or life force. It is also called Hsuan Chaio, which is a popular Chinese religion that purports to be based on the doctrines of Lao-tzu but which is actually highly eclectic in nature and characterized by a pantheon of many gods, superstition and by the practice of alchemy, divination and magic.

Is Chinese Medicine a Religion?

Brian Benjamin Carter, BPh, HHP, CTM

Is Chinese Medicine a Religion?

Editor's note: An abridged version of "Is Chinese Medicine a Religion?" appeared in the July issue of *Acupuncture Today*. After discussions between Mr. Carter and Z'ev Rosenberg, LAc, it was decided to present a revised edition of the article in its entirety, which follows below. Readers are also encouraged to read Mr. Rosenberg's article, which will appear in the August issue.

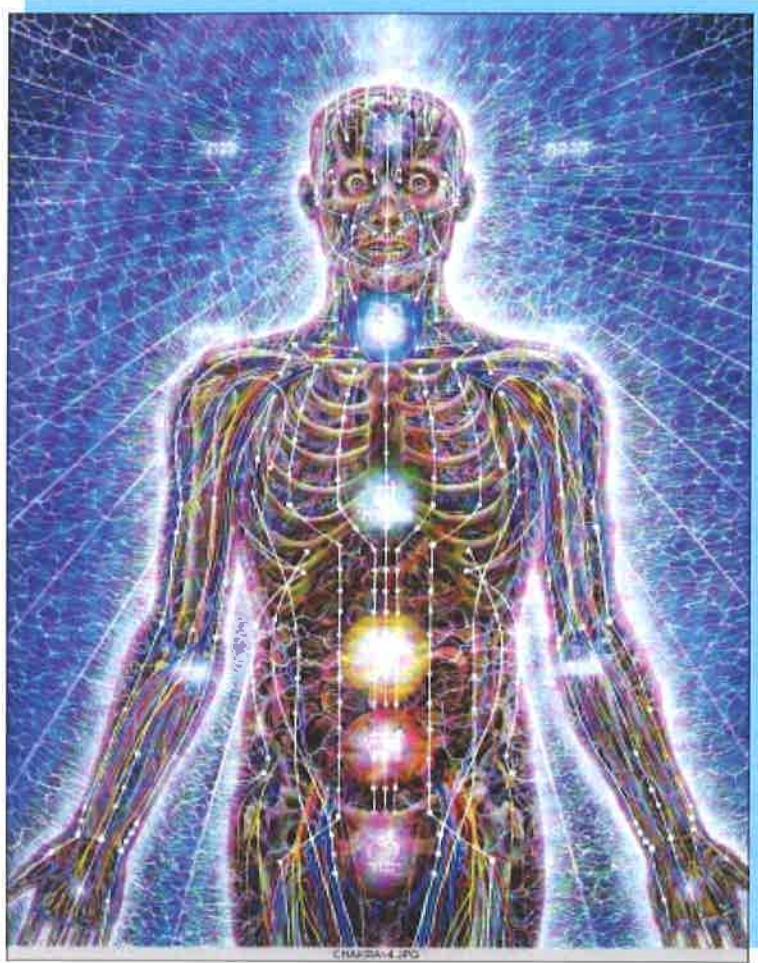
One of Chinese medicine's unique strengths is its integration of mind, body and spirit. It attracts patients and students who seek not only healing, but also spiritual transcendence and depth. It's a wonderful system of links between consciousness and organs, emotions and physical symptoms -- but there is a downside. When you bring spirituality into the picture, you invite controversy and division. This may surprise the one-world, one-spirit crowd, but for Christians, Jews or Muslims, it's not so simple.

I explain to people that the acupuncturist's spirituality doesn't have to be a problem. ("Does the spirituality of the medical nurse who takes your blood with a hypodermic needle threaten you?") I suggest they tell their acupuncturist their concerns up front, and expect that the acupuncturist will respect them and their spirituality. If they're really anxious, I advise them to pray for protection.

Source: Acupuncture Today, July 2003

Acupuncture in Michigan

Michigan Traditional Acupuncturists - In Their Own Words



"Chinese medicine," often called "Oriental medicine" or "traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)," encompasses a vast array of folk medical practices based on mysticism. It holds that the body's vital energy (*chi* or *qi*) circulates through channels, called *meridians*, that have branches connected to bodily organs and functions. Illness is attributed to imbalance or interruption of *chi*. Ancient practices such as acupuncture, Qigong, and the use of various herbs are claimed to restore balance. Stephen Barrett, M.D.

Registered by the State of Michigan

The material to follow has been obtained from the web pages and advertising of Michigan acupuncturists and been prepared solely for informational purposes and provided confidentially to Michigan legislators.

Governor Granholm Names Members of New Acupuncture Board

On August 15, 2006 Governor Jennifer Granholm announced appointees to the Michigan Board of Acupuncture. The board, created with the signing of Public Act 30 of 2006 on February 23, is responsible for developing rules that set forth minimum standards for registration as an acupuncturist.



The State Mandated Practice of Religion
"Taoism is a Religion" US Supreme Court, 1961

Acupuncture and Chinese medicine are based upon Taoist religious practices. Please note that –

US Supreme Court case *Torcaso v. Watkins*, 367 U.S. 488 (1961), page 495, footnote 11 cites Taoism as a "religion".

"Taoist symbol of the interplay of forces in the universe. In Chinese philosophy, yin and yang represent the two primal cosmic forces in the universe. Yin (moon) is the receptive, passive, cold female force. Yang (sun) is masculine- force, movement, heat. The Yin Yang symbol represents the idealized balance of the forces; equilibrium in the universe."Source:

<http://www.cyberpetey.eu/symbols.html>



There is currently no licensure for acupuncturists in Michigan, Michigan has registration. The correct designation is R.Ac., not L.Ac. Many Michigan acupuncturists publicly claim they are licensed.



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Gary Merel, M.S., L.Ac

Gary Merel is a graduate of the New York College of Healthcare Professionals. He has an M.S. in Oriental Medicine, which includes both acupuncture, and Chinese herbal medicine. Gary has been in practice for the last 8 years and is a current member of the Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MAAOM).

Most recently, Gary has obtained a Certification in Enzyme Nutrition from the Loomis Institute in Madison Wisconsin.

Gary is a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan Medical School and a participant in ongoing research project with Integrative Health Department at the University. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Washtenaw Community College where he has taught classes on Oriental Medicine.

Prior to moving to Ann Arbor from Pennsylvania, his practice was part of a holistic OB/Gyn practice called Medicine In Balance. Gary was affiliated with the Holistic Health Center at St. Mary's Medical Center in Langhorne, PA., as well as the resident acupuncturist at Penns Wood Village, an assisted living community in Newtown, PA. Gary was also an adjunct faculty member at Bucks County Community College as well as an instructor at the Somerset School of Massage Therapy.

Gary is a founding member of the Edo-Kai Traditional Acupuncture Society and has studied with several renowned Japanese acupuncture masters.

Articles of Interest About Gary Merel

A Visit with Local
Acupuncturist

Biz Buzz Article

Times of Trenton
Energy Medicine

Acupuncture Center of Ann Arbor
Gary Merel M.S. L.Ac..
180 Little Lake Drive, Unit 4,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Susan Jakary is a **licensed**, professional, highly trained and experienced acupuncturist and Chinese herbal medicine specialist. Susan Jakary, MS, L.Ac., Dipl C.H.

Michigan acupuncturists falsely claim that the World Health Organization has endorsed acupuncture for the treatment of dozens of human diseases, it has not.

Some of the more commonly gynecological conditions treated with acupuncture include: loss of menstrual flow, irregular menses, painful menses, heavy uterine bleeding, pre-menstrual syndrome, polycystic ovarian syndrome, endometriosis uterine fibroids, infertility, pregnancy-related conditions, frequent miscarriage, and the shift into menopause.

Gastrointestinal Disorders, such as food allergies, peptic ulcer, chronic diarrhea, constipation, indigestion, gastrointestinal weakness, anorexia and gastritis

Uro-genital Disorders, including stress incontinence, urinary tract infections, and sexual dysfunction

Gynecological Disorders, such as irregular, heavy, or painful menstruation, infertility in women and men, and premenstrual syndrome (PMS)

Respiratory Disorders, such as emphysema, sinusitis, asthma, allergies and bronchitis

Disorders of the Bones, Muscles, Joints and Nervous System, such as arthritis, migraine headaches, neuralgia, insomnia, dizziness and low back, neck and shoulder pain

Circulatory Disorders, such as hypertension, angina pectoris, arteriosclerosis and anemia

Emotional and Psychological Disorders, including depression, and anxiety

Addictions, such as alcohol, nicotine and drugs

Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders

***Note:** Acupuncture is often effective therapy for other chronic and painful debilitating disorders which have no clear explanation or origin.

Source: <http://www.acupuncturecenteraa.com/>

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Brodie Burris, DiplAc, MA



Brodie Burris, Past President, MAAOM

What conditions do Acupuncture and Chinese Herbs treat?

Allergies / Asthma
Back Pain
Conjunctivitis
Dizziness

Anxiety / Depression
Bladder / Kidney problems
Constipation / Diarrhea
Addiction / Smoking

Arthritis / Joint problems
Colds / Flu
Cough / Bronchitis
Fatigue

Frozen shoulder
Headache / Migraine
High Blood Pressure
Knee Pain
Pre-Menstrual Syndrome
Sciatica
Skin Problems

Gastrointestinal Disorders
Heart Problems
Immune System Deficiency
Menopausal Discomforts
Paralysis / Numbness
Sexual Dysfunction
Stress / Tension

Gynecological Disorders
Palpitations
Infertility
Neck Pain / Stiffness
Rhinitis / Sinus congestion
Shoulder / Elbow Pain
Tendonitis

Source: <http://www.annarboracupuncture.com/pages/faq.html#conditionstreat>



Rosanne Emanuele, M.Ac

Address: 2350 Washtenaw
Avenue, Suite 7

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Telephone: (734) 302-7300

Membership: MAAOM, AAOM

SPECIALTIES

Digestive disorders: irritable bowel, painful bloating and hyperacidity, constipation and diarrhea

Respiratory disorders: asthma, bronchitis, sore throat and colds

Neurological and muscular disorders: migraine headaches, other headaches, back pain, sciatica, arthritis, neck pain, frozen shoulder, spinal regularities and fibromyalgia.

Urinary, menstrual, menopausal and reproductive problems.

Other important areas include: Anxiety, depression, menopausal symptoms, fatigue, stress, systemic exhaustion, viral infections, and structural irregularities.

Source: <http://www.annarboracupunctureweb.com/emanuele.html>

Michigan acupuncturists falsely claim treatment efficacy for unproven and scientifically unsubstantiated equipment and procedures such as crystal healing.

Emanuele Acupuncture 調和
Rosanne Emanuele, M.Ac.

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Brazilian Crystal Light Therapy

In her beautiful clinic Rosanne also offers an unusual service, the Brazilian Crystal Light Bath.

Seven individually chiseled crystals are suspended over the body aimed at the seven endocrine gland locations or seven chakras. Each crystal gently blinks, at its own rate, one of the primary colors, the colors of the rainbow. Together these seven frequencies energetically untangle and de-stress the body. The process is silent and peaceful.

Experience with the light bath varies depending on one's individual need. Headaches melt away, body aches fade, the mood is made easy and one is returned to their comfortable state.

For example:

One highly PMS headache prone young woman laid under the crystals and felt her head open from the back and reported no headache for the whole week of her menses and that her mood was so even she couldn't conger up a crabby mood if she tried! She was thrilled.

A veteran with arm neuropathy felt gentle movement inside his lower arms and then a pleasing sensation of lightness as if they were floating.

An exhausted teacher relaxed under the crystals, went into a deep state and felt a light tapping at her heart; she was moved and grateful for the sensation of peace.

Another woman felt tear releasing from her right side and decided to visit the Casa in Brazil, where the crystals originate, for a two week retreat.

It is typical for people to leave the session with a relaxed face and a bright happy look in their eyes.

Rosanne offers several rates: \$25 /20 minutes, \$35/30 minutes and \$65/hour

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Emanuele Acupuncture
2350 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 10
Ann Arbor, MI 48104 [Map](#)

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www.annarboracupuncture.com

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Traditional acupuncture education includes concepts such as being able to balance male and female energy (chi) in transgender patients.

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Acupuncture Poll
Do you specialize in any of the following?

- ☐ Infertility
- ☐ Chronic Pain
- ☐ Anxiety/Depression

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Q*i*
ANCIENT MEDICINE, MODERN HEALTH
Acupuncture Efficacy in

Acupuncture Today
May, 2003, Vol. 04, Issue 05

The Dance of Yin and Yang: Transgender Health, Part One

By Elizabeth Sommers, PhD, MPH, LAc and Kristen E. Porter, PhD, MS, MAC, LAc

"Please bear in mind, however, that the concept of yin and yang is relative and that it defines no clear-cut antithesis understood to be absolutely active and positive or absolutely passive and negative.



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Yin can exist within yang, and yang within yin. The active and passive principles are not merely an arbitrary division of energy, but they are the actual interplay between the elements. All, let it be remembered, is relative."

- Mme. Dr. M. Hashimoto⁴

In our work with Asian medicine, we develop a professional understanding and respect for the ancient concepts of yin and yang. Originally used to describe the relation of light and shadow, as in the sun's course through the heavens in the daily cycle, yin often represents shade, the moon and the feminine principle; yang is frequently interpreted as bright, the sun and the masculine principle.

Just as the light of the sun shifts throughout the course of the day, yin and yang are continually changing and transforming into each other. The morning's sunny slope becomes the shaded area of the afternoon; there is a perpetual polarity of metamorphosis, a dialectic of contradictions and solutions that results in the unification of opposites. At the point of most extreme night (viz. midnight), morning begins. At the moment the tide is at its lowest ebb, the swell of resurgence commences.

Michigan traditional acupuncturists claim to be graduates of accredited schools and to possess valid master and doctoral degrees.

Traditional acupuncture schools do not have standard college or university accreditation, such as regional accreditation like that from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or CHEA. Acupuncture school accreditation is more correctly on the level of vocational education with masters and doctoral degrees. US Department of Education approved agencies have accredited schools of astrology.

First School Of Astrology Is Accredited

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AUG. 28, 2011

A school here in suburban Phoenix, where students learn to write horoscopes and give advice about the future, has won accreditation from a federally recognized body, in what is believed to be a first for a school of astrology.

The accreditation of the school, the Astrological Institute, will allow it to seek approval from the Department of Education for its students to get federal grants and loans.

The school's founder, Joyce Jensen, who had been seeking accreditation for years, said the stars were favorably aligned this month.

"This was a very good time," said Ms. Jensen, a 60-year-old Scorpio.

Her institute, where courses include a "master class on the asteroid goddesses" and "how to write an astrological column," offers one program: a diploma in astrology and psychology.

The institute received accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology after demonstrating that its teachers were qualified and that its graduates could be placed in jobs, said Elise Scanlon, executive director of the commission, which is based in Arlington, Va. Ms. Scanlon and other officials in her field knew of no other accredited astrology schools.



DOM

Doctor of Oriental Medicine

OMD

Oriental Medical Doctor

Susan Burke, DiplAc, OMD, LAc.

Michigan traditional acupuncturists claim to be able to treat health conditions in children and to prevent infection using laser acupuncture. No scientific evidence exists to support such a claim.



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Acupuncture And Chinese Herbs Uniquely Formulated Just For Children

Raising kids in today's society is very challenging, and keeping your children healthy can often become a full time job. Food allergies, Michigan environmental sensitivities, and the flu are all common encounters that fight against the wellbeing of children and teenagers

Metro Detroit Acupuncture specializes in pediatric healthcare. We accomplish this with experienced and clinically proven acupuncture treatment, traditional Chinese herbs, and by promoting non-addictive all natural medicine that works.



Acupuncture and Oriental medicine, in conjunction with modern medical care has been medically proven to help children and teenagers thrive, manage pain and even prevent illness. This ancient medical wellness system has the unique ability to treat and cure a variety of common and complex illnesses. Our unique combination of oriental medicine with today's modern medical knowledge is clinically proven to manage, reduce and successfully treat:

- Common Cold And Flu Symptoms
- Allergic Reactions To Foods And Environment
- Digestive And Regularity Problems
- Seasonal And Environmental Allergies
- Severe Headaches And Migraines
- Worry, Anxiety And Depression Issues
- Nose, Sinus And Ear Problems
- Pediatric Dermatology And Skin Problems
- Chronic Pain And Trauma Related Pain
- Pediatric Asthma And Breathing Problems
- Sports Related Injuries And Pain Management
- Mood Disorders And Social Behavior Imbalances
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Depression Treatment

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Women's Health

Stop Smoking

Now there is an alternative to acupuncture needles for children of all ages. Two new forms of technology allows children and infants to be treated without the use of needles in a completely painless method of acupuncture. Light therapy, the use of the Low level lasers to stimulate the acupuncture points can offer the same treatment and results as traditional acupuncture with needles. The light helps bring into balance the meridians and immune system so children are less likely to experience **problems with ear infections, fever, and coordination and body function.**



Claims to treat
infectious diseases
with acupuncture
needles.

Acupuncture Point – Gallbladder 36 indicated for:

- ✓ Pigeon chest in children
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Mania
- ✓ Abdominal pain
- ✓ **Rabies**
- ✓ Paralysis of the lower limb
- ✓ Fever after chills
- ✓ **Venereal disease in infants**

*Source: Joel Penner, O.M.D., L.Ac.
Professor, Emperor's College of
Traditional Oriental Medicine
www.americandragon.com*

Claims to treat
esophageal cancer
which normally
has a 98 percent
mortality rate.

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HERB FORMULAS

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER #3

HERBS AND ACTIONS

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CONTRAINDICATIONS AND HERB/DRUG INTERACTIONS

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MODIFICATIONS

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False Claims for Acupuncture

Acupuncture proponents claim that acupuncture works for a long list of medical indications, and claiming that this is supported by evidence. Meanwhile the actual evidence, fairly and rigorously evaluated, is negative.

Steven Novella on December 6, 2017

“A search of acupuncturists’ websites shows that many claim to be able to treat a wide range of conditions, despite a lack of evidence showing the efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of those conditions.

The study was performed by Daniel Ryan from the Society for Science Based Healthcare. He compared the claims to a list of medical conditions that it is illegal to claim to treat without approval, and found:

“... for the 101 included websites, the three most frequent claims were around the treatment or prevention of mental illness, infertility and arthritis (all on the list).

Combined, these claims appeared on 73 per cent of the websites. He also found 11 per cent of sites claimed acupuncture could treat or prevent cancer, 23 per cent made diabetes claims, 19 per cent targeted thrombosis and 14 per cent offered help for heart disease.

What We Treat

Below is a list of conditions that we can effectively treat. Click each topic to read more.

Allergies Anxiety Arthritis Asthma Autoimmune Disease Back Pain Cancer Care
Carpal Tunnel Colds & Flu Depression Diabetes Facial Rejuvenation Fertility
Fibromyalgia Headaches HIV & AIDS Hypertension IBS Insomnia Menopause
Multiple Sclerosis Neck Pain Pain PMS Pregnancy Quit Smoking Stress
Weight Loss